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AT 2310 HRS [redacted]

TWO INF BTNS AND 15 M-113'S ARMOR PERSONNEL CARRIERS HAVE ARRIVED IN SAIGON FROM MYTHO TO PARTICIPATE IN ATTACK ON PALACE. ARMORED UNITS IN THIS GROUP ARE UNDER COMMAND OF LT COL THIEN.

AT 2400 HRS [redacted] THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS HAVE TELEPHONED JGS AND TENDERED RESIGNATIONS:

SEC OF STATE AT PRESIDENCY, NGUYEN DINH THUAN

MINISTER OF FINANCE, NGUYEN LUONG

MINISTER OF AGRICULTRUAL REFORM, TRAN LE QUANG

MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, BUI KIEN THANH

[redacted] COL PHAM NGOC THAO HEADING THE GROUP DESIGNATED TO BLOW UP THE PALACE. SOME OF THE ARMORED VEHICLES FROM MYTHO, 24 TANKS OF T L PALACE GUARD WHICH HAVE JOINED THE INSURGENTS AND ARE NOW FORMING IN THREE COLUMNS. WHEN THE PALACE IS BLOWN UP THESE COLUMNS WILL MOVE ON GIA LONG.

[redacted] GENS SUPREMELY CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE WON. ONLY WORRIED GEN IS LE VAN KIM, WHO IS DEALING WITH CIVILIAN POLITICIANS WHO ARE HAGGLING OVER POSITIONS IN THE NEW GOVT.

KIM HAS DECIDED THAT NEW GOVT WILL INITIALLY BE MILITARY JUNTA WITH SOME CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION BUT THERE WILL BE RAPID TURNOVER TO CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. GEN KIM IS NOW PREPARING A PROCLAMATION TO BE BROADCAST NEXT SEVERAL HOURS.

[redacted] GEN BIG MINH UNQUESTIONABLY IN CONTROL OF GENERALS AND RESOLVES ALL QUESTIONS. ADDS THAT GENS TRYING VERY HARD CONTACT MINISTER OF EDUCATION BUT SO FAR HAVE NOT LOCATED HIM; VICE PRESIDENT THO HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED [redacted]

GEN TRANHMDEGD KHIEM IS ACTING AS BIG MINH'S CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS BUT GEN DON IS DEFINITELY NUMBER TWO IN GENERALS GROUP. GEN CHIEU ASSISTING KHIEM IN FOLLOWING MILITARY OPERATIONS VERY CLOSELY WITH ASSISTANCE SEVERAL COMPETENT COLONELS AND MAJORS.

[redacted]

ITALIAN AMB ADVISES EMBASSY THAT IN RESPONSE TO COUP GROUP RADIO APPEAL, THREE MINISTERS IN HIS APARTMENT (THUAN, MIN OF FINANCE LUONG, AND MIN OF NATL ECONOMY THANH) HAVE REPORTED IN BY TELEPHONE TO JGS. THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT ASKED WHERE THEY WERE, WERE TOLD THEY MIGHT BE NEEDED FOR MEETING TOMORROW MORNING. A FEW MINUTES LATER, RADIO REPORTED THEY HAD CHECKED IN ALONG WITH MIN OF RURID AFFAIRS QUANG [redacted]

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